

REMARKS

Pursuant to this Amendment, Claims 14, 25, and 32-34 have been cancelled. Claims 27-31 have been placed in independent form.

By Office Action dated January 29, 2004, the Patent Office noted that Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13, and 35 were allowable, Claims 27-31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14, 25, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In response, Claims 27-31 have been amended to be placed in independent form. This Amendment does not add new matter.

Claims 14, 25, and 32-34 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In this regard, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to these claims.

Accordingly, only allowable subject matter is pending in this patent application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered as it places the above-identified patent application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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